

CLAIMS

Claims 1-83 (canceled)

Claim 84 (currently amended): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a first molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

a second molded plastic panel joined to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of a second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first molded plastic panel, the second molded plastic panel or both extend cross-vehicle;
- ii. at least one of the first plastic material and the second plastic is formed of a polyolefin material;
- iii. at least one of the first or second panels assists in defining an air duct for a vehicle cabin heating and cooling system; and
- iv. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical joints; and

wherein the first panel includes a first flange that extends along a length and side of the first panel, the second panel includes a first flange that extends along a length and side of the second panel, and the first panel and second panel are joined to each other at the first flange of the first panel and the first flange of second panel and wherein the first flange of first panel opposes and is coextensive with the first flange of the second panel and wherein the first flange of the first panel and the first flange of the second panel cooperatively extend away from the air duct.

Claim 85 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the one or more mechanical joints include one or more mechanical interlocks.

Claim 86 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Claim 87 (canceled)

Claim 88 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the first material is from a different plastic family than the second material.

Claim 89 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the first panel and the second panel are joined to a show surface that is exposed to view in an automotive vehicle.

Claim 90 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 89 wherein the show surface is molded-in-color thermoplastic.

Claim 91 (previously presented): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a first molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

a second molded plastic panel joined to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of a second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first molded plastic panel, the second molded plastic panel or both extend cross-vehicle;
- ii. the first material or the second material includes polypropylene and the first material or the second material includes pc/abs; and
- iii. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical joints that form a mechanical interlock;

wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument or a gauge; and

wherein the first panel includes a first flange that extends along a length and side of the first panel, the second panel includes a first flange that extends along a length and side of the second panel, and the first panel and second panel are joined to each other at the first flange of the first panel and the first flange of second panel.

Claim 92 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the one or more mechanical joints include one or more mechanical interlocks and the mechanical interlocks include a protrusion received in a channel.

Claim 93 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Claim 94 (canceled)

Claim 95 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the first material is from a different plastic family than the second material.

Claim 96 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the first panel and the second panel are joined to a separate show surface that is formed of a molded-in-color thermoplastic polyolefin.

Claim 97 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 96 wherein the show surface is exposed to view in an automotive vehicle.

Claim 98 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving a gauge.

Claim 99 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument.

Claim 100 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the first panel and second panel are adapted to be joined to a separate show surface of the vehicle.

Claim 101 (currently amended): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

- a first molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

- a second molded plastic panel joined to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of a second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first molded plastic panel, the second molded plastic panel or both extend cross-vehicle;

- ii. the first material or the second material consists essentially of polypropylene and the first material or the second material consists essentially of pc/abs;
- iii. at least one of the first or second panels assists in defining an air duct for a vehicle cabin heating and cooling system; and
- iv. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical joints that form a mechanical interlock;

wherein the first panel and second panel are separate from a show surface of the vehicle;

wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include at least one opening for receiving an instrument or a gauge;

~~wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include a circular opening;~~

~~wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include plural rectangular openings; and~~

wherein the first panel and the second panel extend substantially linearly in a cross-vehicle direction.

Claim 102 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 101 wherein:

- i. the one or more mechanical joints include one or more mechanical interlocks and the mechanical interlocks include a protrusion received in a channel;
- ii. at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle; and
- iii. the panels are joined to each other at flanges of the first panel or the second panel, the flanges extending along sides of the first panel or second panel.

Claim 103 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 102 wherein:

- i. the first panel and the second panel are joined to a separate show surface that is formed of a molded-in-color thermoplastic polyolefin;
- ii. the show surface is exposed to view in an automotive vehicle; and
- iii. the at least one opening includes a first opening for receiving a gauge and a second opening for receiving an instrument

Claim 104 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the first panel includes a second flange that extends along a length and side of the first panel, the second panel includes a second flange that extends along a length and side of the second panel, and the first panel and second panel are joined to each other at the second flange of the first panel and the second flange of the second panel.

Claim 105 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 94 wherein the first panel includes a second flange that extends along a length and side of the first panel, the second panel includes a second flange that extends along a length and side of the second panel, and the first panel and second panel are joined to each other at the second flange of the first panel and the second flange of the second panel.

Claim 106 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the first material or the second material consists essentially of polypropylene and the first material or the second material consists essentially of pc/abs.

Claim 107 (canceled)

Claim 108 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the first flange of the first panel opposes and is coextensive with the first flange of the second panel and wherein the

first flange of the first panel and the first flange of the second panel cooperatively extend away from the air duct.

Claim 109 (new): An assembly as in claim 102 wherein the flanges of first panel oppose and are coextensive with the flanges of the second panel and wherein the flanges of the first panel and the flanges of the second panel cooperatively extend away from the air duct.